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# Sheffield TIMES

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page 12

Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. X, Issue 6 **July/August 2011**

## 30 YEARS OF CHORAL MUSIC IN THE BERKSHIRES

This summer, the Berkshire Choral Festival celebrates its 30th anniversary in our rural community. Growing from a handful of concerts put on by some 80 singers, the festival now brings more than 600 choristers from the U.S. and abroad to rehearse and perform the great choral-orchestral masterpieces at Berkshire School. The festival is proud to acknowledge more than 6,000 alumni.

Founded in 1982 by businessman and Sheffield resident John Hoyt Stookey, the festival began its first season by performing the thrilling Verdi Requiem. Robert Page, then choral director of the Cleveland Orchestra conducted, accompanied by the Springfield Symphony Orchestra, with soloists from New York.

There were only three concerts that first year. Eventually, the festival expanded, sometimes encompassing eight singing weeks spread among five venues on two continents, with choruses of 150 to 200 singers.

For avid choral singers, coming to the



*The chorus on stage in Jackman Stewart Center at Berkshire School.*

Berkshire Choral Festival is like going to Baseball Fantasy Camp. Choral singers love to sing. Period. They love to sing, to talk about singing, to talk about what they have sung and what they will be singing. Choral singers like to eat, too. And while they eat, they like to talk about how they love to sing, what they

have sung and what they will be singing. You get the drift. Choral singers embrace community in a big way and are passionate about music and words and how it all fits together.

They are also ardent adult learners. Each week-long session (there are four in Sheffield this July and August) includes classes in music technique, such as ear training, sight-singing, conducting and foreign language diction; music history, such as biographies of the composer-of-the-week and lives of the poets; and music performance, such as learning Gregorian chant, shape-note singing and participating in vocal master classes. In addition, the singers attend five hours of morning and

## ELECTION RESULTS AND THE SCHOOL BUDGET

In Sheffield's town election on May 9, voters voted down a Proposition 2½ override, 298 to 149. The override would have allowed the \$98,000 in additional taxation required to fund Sheffield's share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's \$13.94 million FY2012

operating budget as proposed by the School Committee. Voters also voted no on the school's bond authorization for capital improvements, 257 to 158.

New Marlborough approved its share of the school budget but did not

*Continued on page 3*

*Continued on page 6*

### In This Issue

#### **Community**

New Marlborough Music and More	2
Town Administrator resigns, Dewey Hall	3
Grant for Tobey Hill Farm, art shows	4
Berkshire School honors, hero backpack	5
Mumbet Doll Project	8
Ash pest, asphalt plant, Berkshire South	9
Sheffield in Celebration & Fair	10

#### **Church news**

#### **Library**

#### **Village Green**

Senior Center	11
Board of Selectmen meeting minutes	12
Recycling	13
Commission on Disabilities	14
Planning Board, Town Clerk	15
Conservation Commission	17

#### **Organizations & Businesses**

Farmers Market	18
Land Trust	19
Historical Society	20
Kiwanis, American Legion	21
Floodplain forest	22
Cobble and Ashley House events	23
<b>Fire log &amp; real estate transfers</b>	24
<b>Calendar page</b>	25



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Editors: Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott

Layout: Andrea Scott

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Distribution: Trudy Weaver Miller  
Staff: Sandy & Dale Alden, Rae Eastman,  
Gillian Hettinger, Ellen Rowntree, Peter  
Rowntree, Judy Schumer, Ellen Weiss,  
Barbara West, John Wightman

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of Sheffield and Ashley Falls

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Pamela Bloodworth, 26.*

## MUSIC AND MORE IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

Music and More in New Marlborough begins its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary season in the Berkshires in August. Programs continue into early October at the historic Meeting House on the Village Green. A wine reception follows each event in the Meeting House Gallery.

On Sat., Aug. 6, at 4:30pm, six local writers, finalists in the Berkshire Writers Free For All Mystery Writers Contest, gather to read their entries. The judges are critic, writer and actor Peter Bergman, author and playwright Daniel Klein, writer Holly Morse and screenwriter Maria Nation. First prize is a chef's knife valued at \$550, donated by Mill River resident John Manikowski, who conceived the contest. Free.

On Sat., Aug. 13, at 8pm, it's "Silent Film Night." Ben Model, the silent film accompanist for the past 27 years at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, will play a piano soundtrack for *Mark of Zorro* (1920), which stars Douglas Fairbanks. The movie is largely credited with redefining the swashbuckler genre. \$10 (\$7 for members).

On Sat., Aug. 27, at 4:30pm, the Daedalus String Quartet will perform music by Haydn, Schumann and Dvorak. The group—comprised of violinists Min-Young Kim and Ara Gregorian, violist Jessica Thompson and cellist Raman Ramakrishnan—is currently Quartet-in-Residence at both Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. Daedalus recently recorded Haydn's complete *Quartets*, Op. 20, available on Bridge records. \$25 (\$20 for members).

For more information, call 229-2785 or visit [www.newmarlborough.org](http://www.newmarlborough.org).

## THANK YOU, SUPPORTERS!

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*If we missed thanking you here, we'll catch you in the next issue.  
If you haven't sent in your contribution, do it now! See page 27.*

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**September/October  
issue deadline:  
August 15**



## SHEFFIELD SEEKS A NEW TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Joseph A. Kellogg resigned as Town Administrator as of June 30. He has served as administrator for four years and was the Town's third administrator.

The Town has begun the process of finding a new person for the position. The duties of administrator are many and are outlined in Section 6 of the Town by-laws. Working under the direction of the Board of Selectmen, the administrator supervises and is responsible for the efficient administration of all Town offices and departments under jurisdiction of the Board. The person in this position acts as the Town accountant and is responsible for compiling the annual operating and capital budget for all Town departments and submitting the budget to the Finance Committee. The administrator attends the meetings of the Board of Selectmen and

attend all sessions of the Town Meeting, keeping the Board informed as to the needs of the Town and recommending measures requiring action by them. The administrator also helps the Board recruit staff and runs the Town's personnel system, including acting as the agent for the Board for collective bargaining.

The Board of Selectmen has developed a process for the selection of a new administrator, with the hope that the search will be completed by late summer.

The Search Committee will consist of the three current Selectmen—Julie Hannum, Dave Smith, Jr., and Rene Wood—plus Colin Smith, who serves on the Finance Committee. Online and print ads have been placed with the Massachusetts Municipal Association and the Berkshire Eagle with a request that applications be

submitted before July 1. Applications will be received after that time, but they will not have preference. As of mid-June, the Town had received over 20 resumes.

Each member of the Search Committee will read all applications privately and rank them. Then, meeting together, the Committee will begin the process of identifying the candidates of greatest interest and scheduling interviews, which hopefully will begin in July. All meetings of the Search Committee will be open to interested persons, and interviews will be public. Suggested questions can be submitted to a member of the Search Committee.

Until a new administrator is selected, Kellogg will be employed by the Town on a part-time, interim basis, 12 hours a week.

—John G. Wightman

## ELECTION AND SCHOOL BUDGET, *continued from page 1*

approve the override required to fund it. Monterey, Alford and Egremont did. For the budget to pass, four of the five towns must approve it. Each town pays a share of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's operating budget. Sheffield, the largest town in the district, now contributes about 50 percent.

Sheffield's and New Marlborough's no votes left the school district facing the start of a new fiscal year on July 1 without a budget in place. Sheffield and New Marlborough selectmen and finance committee members asked the School Committee to submit a new budget, one that did not require a Proposition 2½ override. After consideration, the School Committee resubmitted its original budget and New Marlborough and Sheffield were asked to reconsider.

The Board of Selectmen called a special town meeting on June 23 to again vote on Sheffield's share of the budget. This time, the budget question was split into two articles, one "to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,812,155 to pay a portion of the Town's assessed share" and the other to appropriate an additional \$83,000 contingent on the passage of a Proposition 2½ override.

After a well-attended and sometimes contentious meeting, the first article passed and the second did not, again essentially rejecting the budget as pro-

posed by the school committee. The votes were 213 yes to 116 no on article one and 137 yes to 186 no on article two.

New Marlborough held its own special Town Meeting on June 24, where it too voted no, by a vote of 72 to 68.

As this issue went to press, the ball was in the School Committee's court. It was expected that the School Committee would meet on June 30. If it recertifies a new budget at least \$170,000 less than the one just voted on, it will have achieved the approval of four towns, since the amount Sheffield approved on June 23 would be sufficient. (New Marlborough would still have to rectify its budget, however.) If a revised school

### ELECTION RESULTS FOR TOWN OFFICES

In the only contested race, Jane Nye was elected as Library Trustee, edging out John Wightman 218 to 182. Running unopposed were Julie Hannum for another term as Selectman and Bruce Person as Moderator. James Collingwood, Jr., was elected to the Planning Board as a write-in, with 169 votes.

budget is more than that and Sheffield and New Marlborough judge it will make their Town budgets unbalanced, additional town meetings will have to be called.

### DEWEY HALL NEWS

**The Dewey Hall brainstorm session.** On May 15, about 30 people came to Dewey Hall to talk about fun, inspired and practical ideas for revitalizing Dewey Hall. Four committees were formed: Events, Youth, Fund Raising and Facilities Management. The committees, along with Dewey Hall's Board of Directors, will produce a plan for action. Anyone who is interested in serving on a committee and helping make Dewey Hall a more active, more sustainable cultural center can contact, Priscilla Cote, the President of the board, at 229-7907.

**Art shows.** In July and August, Dewey Hall is full of art, with two shows put on by the Housatonic Valley Art League (see page 4.)

**Music.** The Dewey Hall Folk Series is on hiatus for the summer and will be back in full swing on Sat., Sept. 10 at 8pm with a special performance by local favorites the Joint Chiefs, as part of Sheffield in Celebration.

Dewey Hall, on the Green in Sheffield, is available for private and public events. For more information, call Priscilla Cote at 229-7907.



### GRANT FOR TOBEY HILL FARM

A whiz-bang new piece of equipment is coming to Tobey Hill Farm, thanks to a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Agricultural Energy Grant Program. "It's a plate cooler," explains Betty LeGeyt, whose family runs the dairy farm on LeGeyt Rd. "Its function is to cool the milk more rapidly."

Milk cooling, traditionally done in refrigerated tanks, uses a significant percentage of a dairy farm's electricity costs. Milk leaves a cow's body at 98 degrees F. and needs to be cooled quickly to less than 40 degrees. A plate cooler is a simple heat exchanger that transfers the heat in the milk to incoming cold water. "The water isn't wasted, either," says Betty. "It's used to water the livestock."

Not only should the system be more energy efficient, it's healthier as well. Cooling the milk quicker is better since it helps lower bacteria counts.

This technology is relatively new. "Our daughter did most of the research about this," Betty says. The LeGeyts are putting out the money to buy the system, and the state will reimburse them for it under the terms of the grant. "We could never afford this without the grant," she says. The grant money also includes parts of the milking equipment and a pump.

The Agricultural Energy Grant Program aims to improve

energy efficiency and facilitate adoption of alternative clean energy technologies by Massachusetts farms. Reimbursement grants of up to \$30,000 are available. Since the program started in 2009, it has funded 59 projects totaling \$850,000.

—Ellen Weiss

### SUMMER ART SHOWS

**Housatonic Valley Art League.** The art league holds two shows this summer at Dewey Hall in Sheffield. The annual juried show runs from Thurs., June 30, to Sun., July 31, with the opening reception on July 1 from 4:30 to 6pm. The annual member show runs from Thurs., Aug. 4 to Sun., Sept. 5, with the opening reception on Aug. 5 from 4:30 to 6pm. The shows are open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm, Friday until 6, and Sundays 1 to 5pm.

**Meeting House Gallery.** Sheffield ceramics artist Marcia Friedman is one of 32 artists from South County invited to explore the color blue in a show this summer at the Meeting House Gallery. The show opens July 22 and runs through Aug. 21, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 4pm. Works in a variety of media ranging from carved birds to fabric fantasy to oil paintings will be on display. The Meeting House Gallery is on Route 57 in New Marlborough.

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**July 16 7:30pm**

Carol Barnett—*The World Beloved:*

*A Bluegrass Mass*

Bernstein—*Chichester Psalms*

Hailstork—*Break Forth*

**July 23 7:30pm**

Mendelssohn—*Elijah*

**July 30 7:30pm**

Elgar—*The Music Makers*

Vaughan Williams—*Magnificat*

Brahms—*Alto Rhapsody*

**August 6 7:30pm**

Monteverdi—*Vespro della Beata*

*Vergine (Monteverdi Vespers)*

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## SHEFFIELD STUDENTS SHINE AT BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

Only two members of Berkshire School's Class of 2011 hail from Sheffield, but they represented their town admirably at the school's 104th commencement exercises on May 27 by winning two major awards.

Theo Friedman, son of Benno Friedman and Stephanie Blumenthal of Kellogg Rd., won the Robert A. Powers Award



*Theo Friedman*

for demonstrating personal growth, loyalty to the school and dependability of performance during his Berkshire career. At Prize Night on May 26, Theo was inducted into the Berkshire School chapter of the Cum Laude Society and won the Chester W. Rice Science Award. Theo, who was instrumental in implementing Berkshire's ban on plastic water bottles, also won the Elaine Mansell Award for his love of and concern for the environment. An accomplished

photographer whose work has appeared at the Norman Rockwell Museum and other venues throughout South Berkshire,

Theo will attend Tufts University in the fall.

Jenny Quilty of Undermountain Rd. won the Calvin Fentress Citizenship Award for exemplary personal performance, loyalty to Berkshire and outstanding citizenship in the school community. Earlier this year Jenny was named as one of only 300 semifinalists in the 2011 Intel Science Talent Search Competition for her project, entitled "Identification and Characterization of Immunogenic Mutations in a Mouse Fibrosarcoma Model" and based on research Jenny conducted at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.



*Jenny Quilty*

Jenny, who was inducted into the Berkshire chapter of the Cum Laude Society last year, is the daughter of Berkshire Dean of Students Peter Quilty, who delivered the commencement address, and Cheryl Geerhold, the school's director of human resources. She will attend Occidental College in the fall.

—James Harris

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### **Hero backpack awarded**

This spring Gretchen May, right, from the 4-H Operation Military Kids program visited Sheffield's 4-H Trailblazers Club. She came to present a special "Hero Pack" to Jaclyn Derwitsch, left, who is a member of the group. These backpacks, filled with stationery and other small gifts along with a letter thanking the military child for being a "hero too," are for youth who have deployed military parents. Jaclyn's father, Rob Derwitsch, is part of the Army National Guard 181st Infantry from Agawam and is currently deployed in Afghanistan.



## CHORAL FESTIVAL, continued from page 1

evening rehearsals, aided by a faculty of professional singers, assistant conductors and pianists.

There is a guest conductor each week, a prominent choral conductor who oversees the project and leads the rehearsals and performance. Conductors are typically American, but BCF has also engaged conductors from Canada, Venezuela, the U.K. and Austria. On Fridays, the Springfield Symphony Orchestra arrives and the guest conductor begins to put it all together for the Saturday night concert.

For audiences, there is nothing like hearing 150 to 200 massed singers, soloists and a 50-to-65 piece orchestra. That's a lot of people and musical power on stage. And it is an acoustic concert—there are no microphones or speakers. What you see is what you hear, and it is amazing.

Even more amazing, for 30 years, the concerts have taken place in an ice hockey rink. For 28 years, they were held in the open-sided Rovensky Concert Shed (aka Rovensky Hockey Rink) at Berkshire School. A few years ago, Berkshire School built a new complex called the Jackman Stewart Center and last summer, the Choral Festival moved its productions to the

new space. (After the snowy winter of 2010, the roof of the Rovensky Shed was condemned and the move had to be made with very short notice.)

Debi Kennedy is in her second season as President and CEO of BCF, after being the number two administrator in the organization for eight years. She says, "It's important to recognize and remember what was accomplished in the first 30 years and that made BCF so successful. Change must come to stay relevant and interesting to singers and audiences, but without abandoning the mission that has guided us so well.

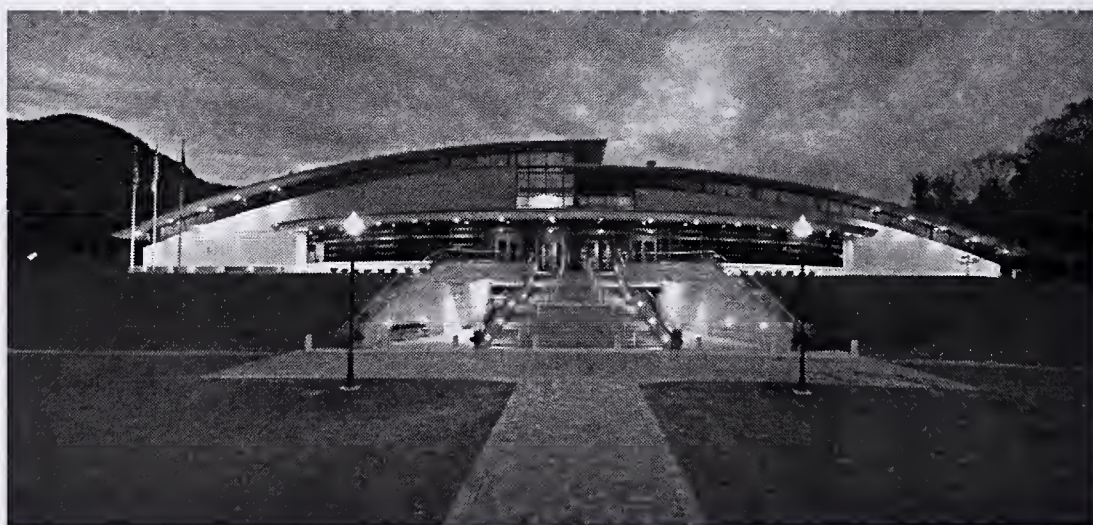
This year, promises Kennedy, BCF will be making more of a "home" in the new concert venue. "We're adding some finishing touches such as banners, draping and new box seat chairs," she says. "The Stewart Center is a great venue—it has excellent acoustics, is air-conditioned, has numerous bathroom facilities and

parking adjacent to the building. And there are no mosquitoes!"

Another area of focus for Kennedy has been new types of choral programming, such as a cappella (unaccompanied) music and a multi-media concert with film, actors, and music for next year. This year, on July 16, listeners will be treated to an unusual program showcasing Carol Barnett's *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass*, featuring the Minnesota-based Bluegrass band Monroe Crossing.

Kennedy is also finding opportunities to bring BCF choral singers and their music to other areas in our community while they are here in the Berkshires. "Each week during our season a group of choristers gathers on the Norman Rockwell Museum patio, where they give a short concert of popular music. It has been a fun event for all and a very nice collaboration with the Museum."

While Sheffield and Berkshire School have been the home of the Berkshire Choral Festival since its inception, it has had venues in other locations as well. BCF first ventured forth to Canterbury, England, where choristers lived within the close of the great Canterbury Cathedral and performed in the Cathedral with various English orchestras, conductors, and solo-



*The new Berkshire School venue at night.*



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ists yearly, for over twenty years. It has also had a long-term relationship with the Salzburg Cathedral in Austria, and it returns there this fall for its 11th performance there.

For 10 years, BCF maintained a venue in Santa Fe, NM, and for two years it had a presence in Montreal, Quebec. In 2009 it was in Prague, Czech Republic, for a multi-media production called "The Defiant Requiem" performed at the former Terezin Concentration Camp. Last fall, BCF was in Scheggino in Umbria for 10 days and sang in the Chiesa di San Gregorio Maggiore in Spoleto. This June, the Festival was in Vancouver, British Columbia, for a performance of Richard Einhorn's "Voices of Light," sung as a companion piece to Carl Dreyer's superb silent film "The Passion Of Joan Of Arc." And next year, the Festival is off to Edinburgh, Scotland.

The Berkshire Choral Festival also

offers a competitive apprentice program for professional-track, post-graduate school singers and conductors. Former apprentices can now be heard on some of the major stages of the world, including the Chicago Lyric Opera and the Berlin Staatsoper, as well as found teaching at major colleges and universities around the country. Several now serve as BCF faculty. One former conducting apprentice, Katherine Fitzgibbon, is a BCF guest conductor this summer.

BCF has an undergraduate level program called the Berkshire Scholar Program. Each year, 20 college-aged students are invited to attend a singing week on full scholarship. Berkshire Scholars typically come from U.S. colleges, although several have come from as far away as Myanmar (the former Burma) and the Ukraine, sponsored by people from the Berkshires with connections in those lands.

The Sheffield programs this summer feature the Barnett work and Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* (Sat., July 16); Mendelssohn's ever popular *Elijah*, conducted by Julian Wachner (July 23); a program of Elgar's rarely-heard *The Music Makers*, Vaughan Williams's *Magnificat* and the Brahms *Alto Rhapsody* conducted by Robert Page (July 30); and the exquisite *Vespers della Beata Vergine* of Monteverdi, conducted by Kent Tritle (Aug. 6).

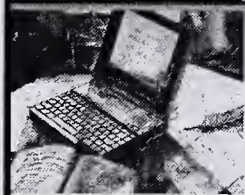
Concerts begin at 7:30pm, with a free pre-concert talk at 6:15pm. Concert-goers can come early and enjoy a picnic on the beautiful campus of Berkshire School before they enjoy the voices of summer. Tickets range in price from \$15 to \$45 and are available at the BCF box office in Stewart Center. Or call 229-1999, email [bcftickets@choralfest.org](mailto:bcftickets@choralfest.org), or check the web site at [www.chorus.org](http://www.chorus.org).

—Trudy Weaver Miller

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A Late Afternoon of Jazz, Wine & Food  
Vocalist Hilary Gardner, and West 73rd: music by Kurt Weill  
Gala wine tasting hosted by Domaney's Fine Wines  
Saturday September 10, 4:30pm



Silent film: Mark of Zorro  
starring Douglas Fairbanks  
With piano accompaniment by Ben Model  
Saturday Aug 13, 8pm

The Apollo Trio  
Curtis Macomber, violin; Michael Kannen, cello;  
Marija Stroke, piano  
Saturday September 17, 4:30pm



Daedalus String Quartet  
Music by Haydn, Schumann, Dvorák  
Saturday August 27, 4:30pm

A Bob Dylan Celebration  
with Seth Rogovoy and Ken Regan  
Saturday September 24, 4:30pm



The "Goldberg" Trio  
Music by Mozart, Beethoven, Harbison &  
Bach's "Goldberg" Variations  
Daniel Stepner; Ronald Gorevic; Guy Fishman  
Saturday September 3, 4:30pm

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Andrew Hacker & Claudia Dreifus;  
Bruce Murkoff; Tracy Kidder  
Saturday, October 1 at 4:30 p.m.



Receptions with the artists after the performances • Art Gallery Shows July 22-Sept 18

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: [www.newmarlborough.org](http://www.newmarlborough.org) (413) 229-2785



### MUMBET DOLL PROJECT TO BENEFIT ASHLEY HOUSE

The Elizabeth Freeman Mumbet Doll project was initiated last winter by the Ashley House Committee, a group from the Sheffield community that volunteers its time and talents in support of the Ashley House, a property of The Trustees of Reservations located in Ashley Falls and an anchor site on the African American Heritage Trail.

The Ashley House tells the intertwined stories of the Ashleys and the enslaved African Americans who lived here in the 18th century. Col. John Ashley built the house in 1735 and spent the next decades accumulating wealth and land. By the time of his death in 1802, Ashley owned more than 3,000 acres, including the land that is now Bartholomew's Cobble. Ashley supported the American Revolution, heading a committee that wrote the fiery Sheffield Resolves, a petition against British tyranny and manifesto for individual rights, in 1773. His financial success was based in part on the labor of five enslaved African Americans.

Inspired by Revolutionary-era rhetoric and her own desire for freedom, Mumbet, who was enslaved in the Ashley House, helped to end slavery in Massachusetts. In 1781, after one too many injurious encounters (involving either a hot poker or a knife) with Col. Ashley's wife, Hannah, Mumbet walked from the Ashley House (then located on Rannapo Rd. near the intersection with Cooper Hill Rd.) to the home of attorney Theodore Sedgwick (the white columned house on Main St. opposite the Old Stone Store). Knocking on his door, Mumbet told the attorney that she wanted his help to sue Col. Ashley for her freedom. In a landmark case, she won, and took the name Elizabeth Freeman. Mumbet was and remains an



At top, the original Mumbet doll designed by Ruth LaPrise, with the handiwork of the Mumbet Doll Project below.

inspiration to all who learn her story.

The Mumbet Doll Project was born of the desire to honor Mumbet and to help to raise funds for the maintenance of the Ashley House. The doll was designed by Sheffield native Ruth LaPrise and is dedicated to the memory of Inez Flinn, who was a tireless volunteer on the Ashley House Committee. Barbara Delmolino developed the sewing directions and was in charge of quality control. Doll kits were assembled, some using fabrics donated by Country Curtains, and given to local women who were interested in participating.

A "Doll Roundup" Tea Party was held in early May and attended by the doll makers, who include committee members Kathy Staropoli, Gilian Shallcross and Trudy Miller as well as Rowan Babb, Pat Barbieri, Jean Bronk, Barbara Delmolino, Jean Deming, Jenny Gebo, Ruth Gillette, Anne Hyatt and Judy Schnurr.

Together, they crafted more than 50 dolls, which are now available for sale for \$25 in the gift shops of the Ashley House and the Old Stone Store in Sheffield and at Naumkeag in Stockbridge. Doll kits are also available for sale for \$18. (Note the kits are not appropriate for beginner sewers.)

The dolls are ready for Mumbet Day, an annual celebration at The Ashley House. This year, it's Aug. 21 from noon to 4pm. See the Cobble Events listing on page 25 for more.

The Ashley House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, contains fine collections of redware, furniture, and tools. For more information, visit [www.TheTrustees.org](http://www.TheTrustees.org) or [www.AfricanAmericanTrail.org](http://www.AfricanAmericanTrail.org) (phone: 229.8600, email [westregion@ttor.org](mailto:westregion@ttor.org)). The Ashley House is located at 117 Cooper Hill Rd. in Ashley Falls.



The Mumbet Doll Project at the Ashley House: (back) Barbara Delmolino, Anne Hyatt, Rowan Babb, Ruth LaPrise; (front) Ruth Gillette, Trudy Weaver Miller, Jenny Gebo, Jean Bronk, Kathy Staropoli, Gilian Shallcross.



## 'BARNEY TRAPS' AIM FOR ASH PEST

If you've been wondering what are those purple things hanging in local trees, Rene Wendell, ranger at Bartholomew's Cobble, has the answer: traps for emerald ash borers. Called "Barney traps" because of their color, the sticky plastic devices contain an attractant specific to that insect. They've been put out to see if the invasive pest is in the area. The traps are not harmful to humans or animals and will be monitored to see if any emerald ash borers turn up.



The emerald ash borer is a green beetle about one-third inch long.

## ASPHALT PLANT PERMIT STILL UNDER REVIEW

As this issue went to press at the end of June, the Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection was still reviewing the application by Century Acquisitions, owner of the concrete batch and rock crushing plant on Clayton Rd. in Ashley Falls.

The No Asphalt! Defense Fund (NADF) has filed an intervention with the DEP and has met at length with both the DEP and the Sheffield Board of Health. The Board of Health will be

meeting with the DEP before the DEP makes any further decisions regarding the plant's operating permits.

NADF a group, formed by local residents committed to keeping a hot mix asphalt plant out of Ashley Falls, is holding its third public information meeting at the Canaan Town Hall, Canaan, CT, on Thurs., July 7. For more information, go to [www.stoptheHMAplant.com](http://www.stoptheHMAplant.com). --

—Andrea Scott

## FREE DAY FOR SHEFFIELD RESIDENTS AT BERKSHIRE SOUTH COMMUNITY CENTER

The Berkshire South Regional Community Center is holding another free day for Sheffield residents on Sun., Aug. 7. Just by showing proof of residency, you can use everything at the center, including the pools. Classes that day include Pilates from 9 to 10 and cardio kickboxing from 10 to 11.

Berkshire South is at 15 Crissey Rd. in Great Barrington. For more information, visit [www.berkshiresouth.org](http://www.berkshiresouth.org) or call 528-2810.

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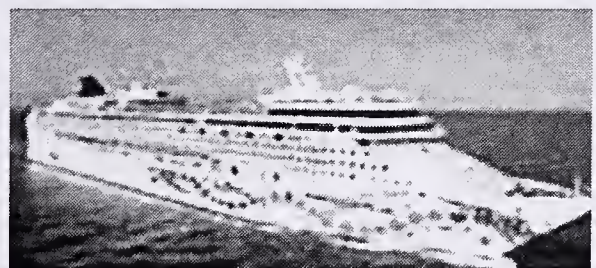


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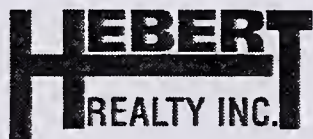
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## SHEFFIELD IN CELEBRATION: FAIR IS SEPT. 10

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Sheffield in Celebration will be the weekend after Labor Day. Under the "Sheffield in Celebration" umbrella are many events, including the Sheffield Fair, the Kiwanis/Fire Dept. Steak Roast and the first concert of the Dewey Hall Folk Series 2011-12 season. Do you have an event going on that weekend? Let the Celebration Committee know at [sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com](mailto:sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com).

*Sheffield in Celebration* was founded by the Sheffield Association, publisher of the *Sheffield Times*, in 2001 as a way to connect people and businesses in the community and celebrate our town the way Canaan

does with Railroad Days and West Stockbridge does with the Zucchini Festival.

### The Sheffield Fair

This year's Fair is on Sat., Sept. 10, from noon to 5pm. For several years, the Fair was held on the Village Green off Route 7. More recently, it has been held at the Town Park off Miller Ave., where there is ample room for exhibits, parking and animals. Thanks to the roofed pavilion there, vendors are protected from rain.

The Fair is growing more and more to be a real country fair. Since 2009, it has included showmanship and fitting competitions for cattle, horses and poultry. This year, for the first time, the Fair is listed in the state of Massachusetts' brochure of agricultural fairs.

The Fair's apple pie contest also began in 2009. The contest is sponsored by King Arthur Flour, which is providing prizes in the three age categories and a prize for best in show. The entry coupon and rules are below. Adult and senior volunteers are wanted to help with the contest (contestants are eligible).

Local craftspeople, organizations and community groups, including the Town of Sheffield, will have tables to dispense information and sell their wares.



Cattle being shown at last year's Sheffield Fair.

The food court will include local produce and goods as well as the Kiwanis trailer selling hot dogs and hamburgers. Other fair food will also be for sale. And there will be lots of activities for kids.

All through the fair, local and regional talent will play family-friendly music. The music is being produced by Tom Ingersoll.

### The Kiwanis/Fire Dept. Steak Roast

The annual Steak Roast will take place right after the Fair on Sept. 10 at the firehouse in the center of Sheffield. The event benefits the Sheffield Hose Co. and Kiwanis-sponsored services. In addition to grilled steak, baked potato, salad, corn-on-the-cob and dessert, there will be a silent auction and more live music. Tickets are \$25 at the door, \$20 in advance. Soda and beer and hotdogs will be on sale, too.

### Dewey Hall Folk Series

The Celebration continues with a concert by the Joint Chiefs, a popular group from Salisbury, CT, that plays rousing Americana and folk music. The concert begins at 8pm in historic Dewey Hall. Suggested donation at the door is \$15.

### APPLE PIE CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Pies must be in place by 12 noon for judging at 2pm.

Registration is from 11am-12 noon. Pies must be in a non-returnable pan, wrapped in a clear plastic bag, with a written list of ingredients. No food mixes.

Pies will be judged on appearance, aroma, flakiness of crust and taste. Judges' decisions are final.

To register, mail coupon to: Barbara Delmolino, 576 Lime Kiln Rd., Great Barrington, MA 01230

Questions? Call Barbara at 229-8696

or email her at [sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com](mailto:sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com).

#### Category

☐ Junior (ages 17 or younger) ☐ Adult (18 to 59) ☐ Senior (60 and up)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### VENDOR ENTRY FORM

Limited tables and tents available on a first-come, first-serve basis to those who register in advance.

Call for pricing.

Make checks payable to "Sheffield Association" with a notation for "Sheffield Fair."

Sheffield Fair • September 10, 2010

P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257

229-9956 • [sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com](mailto:sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business name \_\_\_\_\_  
as you would like it to appear in print

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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What is your product/exhibit? \_\_\_\_\_

#### Enclosed is

☐ \$10 for single space (10x10)

☐ \$20 for double space (10x20)



## OUR LADY OF THE VALLEY 'PILGRIMS' WALKS THE PARISH

On June 11-12, some 30 "pilgrims" from Our Lady of the Valley parish in Sheffield walked 20 miles, exploring the three churches of the parish.

Despite chilly, stormy weather, 15 adults, 14 children and one dog began at Our Lady of the Hills church in Monterey and walked on back roads 12 miles to the Immaculate Conception church in Mill River. The children discovered newts and fish swimming under the rustic bridges that they crossed.

In Mill River the younger pilgrims enjoyed wading in the Konkapot River and feasting on grinders and s'mores over an open fire. After evening prayer, the pilgrims collapsed into their sleeping bags in the church, to be awakened by a trumpet playing "Alleluia, Let the Holy Anthem Rise!" Breakfast at the Mill River General Store and morning prayer followed.

The group left at 8am, walking via Hayes Hill, Brewer Branch and Hulett Hill Roads to Our Lady of the Valley Church, arriving in time for the parish's annual outdoor mass and barbecue at 11am. Our Lady's former pastor, Father John Lis, joined the last mile of the walk. Father Bruce Teague and Steve Posey assisted Mary Makuc in the "sweep" van.

The children still had enough energy to revel in a bouncy house and to tell their friends about their adventures exploring the beauty of God's creation in the Berkshires. And miracle of miracles—no blisters were reported! —*Dick Magenis*



*The "pilgrims." In front: Mary Makuc, Justin Makuc, John Moran, Ann Moran, Catherine Makuc, Laura Moran, David Moran and son Daniel. Middle: John Makuc and daughter Grace, Jacob Makuc, Mary Moran, Madelaine and her Mom Sally, Maddy Makuc, Pat Hardisty, Deacon Dick Magenis. Back: Mark Makuc and daughter Nadia, Roger and daughter Haley, Gabi Makuc, Joe Makuc, Joe Krejci, Maureen Guidi and daughter Danielle.*

### CHRIST CHURCH FAIR

Christ Church Episcopal/Trinity Lutheran holds its annual country fair on Sat., Aug. 13. The tag sale starts at 9am, the fair at 10 until 4pm. Ware include arts and crafts, baked goods, fresh Wellfleet clams, fresh produce. There's a fun fair for kids, and lunch will be served.

### CONGREGATIONAL BRUNCH

The First Congregational Church of South Egremont invites everyone to a Sunday Brunch on July 17 from 10am to 1pm. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children between the ages of 5-12. All are welcome. There will also be a special Afternoon Worship Service at 5pm. For more information on either, please call 528-2368.

### RELIGIOUS SERVICES

#### ASHLEY FALLS

**Greenwoods Community Church** (non-denominational), 355 Clayton Rd. 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442. Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided. Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

**Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)**, 1156 Ashley Falls Rd. Sunday: 9am Service. Betty LeGeyt, Pastor

#### EGREMONT

**First Congregational Church of South Egremont**, 34 Main St. 528-2209; parsonage 644-6419; pastor's cell (413) 883-1116. Sunday Worship: 10am. Rev. Peter Henderson.

#### GREAT BARRINGTON

**Congregation Ahavath Shalom** (reconstructionist), North St. 528-4197. Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services not held every week. Schedules are updated on answering machine

**Hevreh of Southern Berkshire**, 270 State Rd. 528-6378. Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service. Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study. Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Associate Rabbi Ari Rosenberg

#### SHEFFIELD

**Christ Church Episcopal & Trinity Lutheran**, 180 Main St. 229-8811. Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & child care; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder

**Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses**, Route 7 & Kellogg Rd. 229-8649. The public is welcome.

**Old Parish** (United Church of Christ), 125 Main St. 229-8173. Sunday: 9am Worship (summer hours). Rev. Jill Graham, Pastor

**Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)**, Maple Ave. 229-3028. Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. Bruce Teague

**Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)**, 1970 N. Main St. 528-2911, [www.sheffieldchapel.org](http://www.sheffieldchapel.org). Sunday: 10:45am Worship, 9:30am Sunday School for all ages. Wed.: Group Prayer Time 7pm. Pastor: Corey McLaughlin



## GETTING THE MOST FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Sheffield's Bushnell-Sage Library is often called one of the best small rural libraries in Massachusetts. Library cards are available to all Sheffield residents and second-home owners, just by filling out a short form. The card gives access not only to the Bushnell-Sage's collection, but to all libraries in the Massachusetts Library System.

**Books.** The Bushnell-Sage Library has more than 46,000 books, with an especially strong collection of materials on literature and on gardening. But any book in the state is available through the state's CW/MARS (Central and Western Massachusetts Regional) system. You can order books online (someone at the desk will give you the simple instructions to do so) or a library staff member will do it for you.

**Periodicals.** The Library gets a daily copy of the New York Times, Wall Street

Journal and Berkshire Eagle, in addition to the Berkshire Record. Many other subscriptions are available online. It subscribes to some six dozen magazine titles, ranging from *Poets and Writers*, *Reminisce*, *Skateboarder* and *Bark* to Arthur Frommer's *Budget Travel*.

**Audio books and electronic books.** The Library has been trying to increase its collection of audio books (on CDs). Currently, it has about 600. "E books"—electronic files that can be read on a Kindle, Nook or iPad—are available, with a library card, through the CW/MARS website (go to [www.cwmars.org](http://www.cwmars.org) and choose "online resources/digital catalog" to see the offerings).

**Movies.** The Library has more than 1,000 titles on DVD and another 2,000 on VHS tape. The DVD collection is very up-to-date; the VHS titles are "older and better."

**More unusual items.** The Library now has two ukuleles, donated by the Magic Fluke Co., that are available for checking out. There are also passes for many cultural institutions in the Berkshires (see box at right).

Books and CDs can be checked out for three weeks; periodicals, DVDs and videos for one week. Items can be renewed once, either at the Library desk or online. The Library doesn't charge fines for late materials, although small monetary donations are accepted.

In addition to all these resources, the Bushnell-Sage Library present a wide variety of programs, from book talks to special reading camps for kids. (See the box at left



### THE BUSHNELL-SAGE LIBRARY

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HOURS: TUES.-THURS. 10-5; FRI. 10-8;

SAT. 10-5, SUN 2-5; MON. CLOSED

for what's coming up in July.)

Sheffield's Library has been in its current location, formerly the Sheffield Center School, since 1997. Prior to that, it had been in the building at the corner of Route 7 and Berkshire School Rd., now the town police station. The Library staff is headed up for the past 10 years by Nancy Hahn, only the third head librarian since 1929.

—Andrea Scott

### CHECK OUT AN EXPERIENCE

The Library has several passes that allow two to four people free entry into many of the area's cultural institutions. The passes can be checked out for three days at a time. (Check-out time has been reduced from one week to allow as many patrons as possible to take advantage of the passes.) In addition to the places listed below, the Library also has a parking pass for Massachusetts state parks.

Ashley House and the Cobble  
Berkshire Museum  
The Clark Museum  
The Folly in Williamstown  
Hancock Shaker Village  
MASS MoCA  
The Mission House  
The Mount  
Naumkeag  
Norman Rockwell Museum  
Ventford Hall

### LIBRARY PROGRAMS IN JULY

**Reading camp.** This year's Children's Summer Reading Camp is July 11 to 15, 12:30-3:30pm.

**Book talk.** On Mon., July 18, at 5pm, Daniel Levinson and Emilie Piper will give a talk on their book *On the Other Side of Glory: The Berkshire Men of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment*. Presented in conjunction with the Sheffield Historical Society. Free.

**Poetry.** On Sat., July 30, the Library will host a "Poetry Read Around" at 4pm.

There are no programs scheduled for August.

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## SENIOR CENTER NEWS AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

Sheffield's Council on Aging and the Friends of the Senior Center held an open house for the community at the new Senior Center on June 11. More than 75 people visited the center and were introduced to the activities that take place there, including exercise classes, Wii bowling, movies, games and puzzles and health clinics.

Now that the Senior Center no longer has to share space at Dewey Hall with the Housatonic Valley Art League's summer shows, this is the first summer that the center's programming will be in full swing. Three new programs have been launched:

- For Arts' Sake. Local artists of all levels meet to work on their art and share their experiences.
- The Writers' Forum. Writers meet to share ideas, poetry, prose, and memoirs.
- The Computer Lab. Seniors can come to learn basic computing, Internet

searching and email on the new computers donated by the Friends.

Other summer activities include a regular men's breakfast with entertainment and education on men's health issues, an ice cream social on July 21 at 1:30pm, and a trip in August to the Mac-Haydn Theatre to see a production of "Grease."

Working with the Claire Teague Senior Center and the Community Health Program, the Senior Center is also planning a Senior Life History Mentoring Project that matches seniors with middle-school students; together they will work to put together a scrapbook of their lives. And the Meals-on-Wheels distribution of food to the homebound continues through the summer.

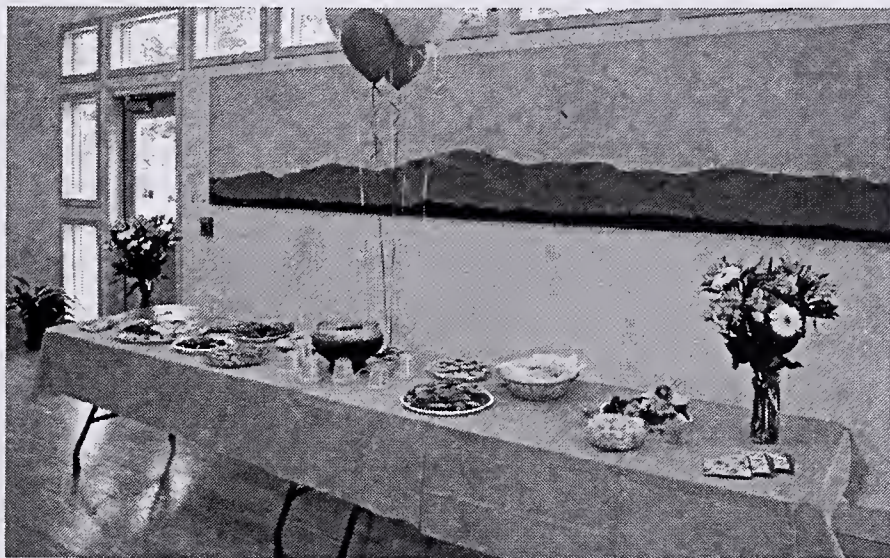
The center of course remains a source of information and referral for Sheffield seniors, who are more numerous than

ever. John-Arthur Miller, director of the Senior Center, notes that the new 2010 census shows an increase of nearly 30 percent in the senior population in Sheffield. "It now totals over 900 people age 60 and up. And this is at a time when the overall population in Berkshire County has fallen," he says.

John-Arthur reminds everyone that he and the Council on Aging welcome ideas for new programming initiatives. If you are looking for something to do or something to learn, or just want to get out of the heat, come to the new, air-conditioned Sheffield Senior Center at 25 Cook Rd, behind the American Legion hall. The Center is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 2:30pm. Phone: 413-229-7037. Call to be put on the newsletter mailing list!

—Trudy Weaver Miller

*Below is a view of one of the custom decorations for the center, a mural of the Taconic Range, shown with nibbles set out for the open house. Right: Plenty of room for watching TV and playing games.*



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## FROM THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MINUTES

### April 4 working meeting

The Board discussed the Annual Town Meeting warrant and the fiscal year 2012 Budget. The Board will meet on April 19 to approve the Warrant so it can be posted at least seven days before the Town Meeting.

Chairman Julie Hannum said she has received a request from School Committee member Vito Valentini to meet with the Board and the Finance Committee to discuss the proposed Southern Berkshire Regional School District bond, and a meeting was set for April 6. The Board invited the Boards of Selectmen from Monterey, New Marlborough, Egremont and Alford to meet on April 20 to discuss the school bond.

The Board discussed the Solid Waste Enterprise Fund. The salary line item has been increased, and the tipping charges line item decreased, which results in a \$4,000 decrease in the overall budget.

Selectman Rene Wood distributed a draft of a proposed "Doing Business in Sheffield" brochure for review. She also noted that she obtained information regarding solar panels from several different companies at the Massachusetts Municipal Assoc. conference. She will contact the companies for further information to see if such a project makes sense for the town.

### April 4 regular meeting

The Board approved the bid received from Johnston & Johnston to replace seven windows at the Bushnell Sage Library for the cost of \$1,250 per window.

Timothy Reynolds explained his Eagle Scout Leadership project to the Board. He would create a list of homes from a sample of roads in town that do not have an E911 sign posted. He would then contact the homeowners and offer to make a wooden E911 sign to be posted. The Board approved the project. Reynolds will keep the Board posted on his progress.

George Oleen inquired about the Board's decision to not include Wired West on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Board members responded that, based on a presentation from a representative of Wired West, there was not a clearly defined plan for financing the proposed project. The representative also advised that Sheffield was likely too late in the process to be able to affect the proposal. In addition, the Board wants to see what options Mass Broadband Institute may offer.

The Board voted to appoint Brent Getchell an Assistant Fire Safety Inspector for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

### April 19 working meeting

The Board approved the warrant.

The Board voted to appoint Claudia Martin to the Commission on Disabilities for a term to expire June 30, 2012.

Four letters of interest were received for the position of Animal Control Officer. Town Administrator Joe Kellogg noted Martin Clark's extensive experience and recommended that he be appointed to the position for a term to expire June 30, 2012. The Board did so.

The Board discussed a proposed detour route for the Great Barrington 250th Celebration Parade in July that would reroute traffic through Sheffield so that Route 7 can be closed in Great Barrington. After Police Chief Jim McGarry reviewed and approved the proposed route, the Board approved it. The Board also voted to purchase a half page sponsor ad in the Great Barrington 250th Celebration booklet.

Administrator Kellogg distributed a revised FY2012 budget. He noted two changes: an increase in Chapter 70 local aid and a decrease in the amount of Free Cash needed as a result of the Assessors Office approving a release of Overlay Surplus in the amount of \$65,000. These changes reduce the proposed tax rate from \$13.06 to \$13.04.

Jared Clayton was present to inquire if there was an update regarding his issue with property along Clayton Rd. Administrator Kellogg will contact Clayton for a site visit.

### April 25 working meeting

Grace Campbell, Chairman of the Council on Aging, discussed a number of problems with COA meetings and with the Senior Center. Board members and Administrator Kellogg emphasized that the Senior Center Director works for the COA and should be taking his direction from that body. It was suggested that the COA meet more frequently, possibly once a week, to develop a consensus on how the Senior Center should operate. The Board thanked the COA members for their work and input on the operations of the new Senior Center.

Thomas Carmody, the town Building Inspector, discussed bylaw enforcement and his need for the Board's support of zoning decisions that he makes. He said he has received three inquiries into the modified gasoline price sign at Gulotta's Mobil, which he believes is in compliance with the zoning bylaw. Selectman Wood said that she had also received calls about the sign and would have liked a written determination so anyone who disagreed with the determination could appeal.

Administrator Kellogg and Carmody



## Berkshire Styles Salon

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will set a date to discuss the Hanlon landing field and issues around property on Woodedge Lane.

#### **May 2 working meeting**

The Board voted to send letters to Representative Smitty Pignatelli thanking him for his support and to Senator Ben Downing asking for his support on the health care reform legislation.

#### **May 9 working meeting**

Trudy Weaver Miller, Kathy Orlando and James Kelly were present to represent the Sheffield Farmer's Market and Sheffield's Agricultural Commission, which are requesting that part of the Village Green be closed to allow some of the market be in front of the Old Parish Church where it will be more visible. The market hours will be 3 to 7pm, and vendors would begin to set up at 2. Discussion ensued regarding traffic patterns, parking, signs, abutting businesses and safety. Chief McGarry will meet with the Market and the Agricultural Commission to look at the proposed plans.

The Board discussed the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation, which is in financial difficulties. It has sufficient funds to finish FY11 but has a projected shortfall for FY12. Gary Shepard, director of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority, has suggested that a consultant be hired to evaluate the transportation needs and come up with a plan. Administrator Kellogg will contact Fran Premierlani, Chairman of the SBETC to discuss how its service can be operated more efficiently and whether BRTA can be of assistance.

Administrator Kellogg stated that the Highway Superintendent has proposed roads for paving this summer, depending on total costs. These would receive new bituminous concrete: County Rd. from the Hewins St. intersection to the first bridge past the S curves; Home Rd. from Custom Extrusion to the beginning of that section paved in 2007; Sheffield-Egremont Rd. from the railroad tracks to Lime Kiln Rd. In addition, Valley View Rd., East Rd. and West Rd. would receive a second coat of oil and stone and Pike Rd. West would be reclaimed and paved

with oil and stone. Discussion continued regarding Pike Rd. East, which is not a town road.

The Board agreed to replace the Town Park sign with the same type of sign used at the Town Hall, Police Station, and Senior Center.

Administrator Kellogg requested that the Board approve a change order to the contract with Salco Construction for the new Senior Center. The change involves re-hanging a door in the mechanical room; lighting changes in the kitchen and basement; a new lighting fixture in the elevator mechanical room; and installing a new switch for the exterior pole lights for a total increase of \$1,424.29. The Board did so.

#### **May 16 regular meeting**

Chairman Hannum thanked the voters for their support of her candidacy at the recent election and noted that the Board needed to reorganize. Selectman Wood was voted to serve as Chairman for the next year.

Members of the Red Hat Society were present to discuss their request to meet at the Senior Center once a month. Administrator Kellogg said that the Board had several requests to use the building from different private organizations. To make sure that all aspects of the building are operating correctly, the decision had been made to wait one year before allowing such groups to use the building. The Board decided it would set a policy for the use of the building before giving permission for any group to use it.

Chris Tomich submitted his resignation from the Planning Board. The opening will be posted, and the Board will meet with the Planning Board to jointly make an appointment. Tomich indicated in his letter his desire to be considered for appointment as Alternate Member for the Planning Board. The Board voted to send him a letter of thanks for his service.

A River Park Task Force is being formed for the Covered Bridge Park to make recommendations on how this and other similar parks should be developed, maintained and used.

The Board decided to set up an

account to handle non-specific donations to the Council on Aging.

Selectman Hannum said that the River Park Celebration was a great success. Selectman David Smith thanked Selectman Hannum for the great job she did as Chairman of the Board. Chairman Wood said that she attended the all-day session regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency clean up of the Housatonic River and is impressed with the commitment to complete the task.

Priscilla Cote, chairman of the Board of Health, was present to discuss an Emergency Dispensing Site grant from the Berkshire County Boards of Health Association for \$2,500. The Board decided to support the application for the grant.

At the request of Grace Campbell, the Board approved the planting of a dogwood tree by the Sheffield Water Company at the Senior Center in

*Continued on page 16*

## **WASTE DISPOSAL**

Sheffield residents can dispose of household hazardous waste—oil-based paint and solvents, pool chemicals, insecticides, oven cleaner, mercury thermometers, fluorescent lamps, rechargeable batteries, etc.—on Sat., July 9, at the Stockbridge Recycling Center, 9am to noon.

TVs and computers will be accepted for a fee of \$10 or more, depending on size. The first three propane tanks can be disposed of free; additional tanks are \$5 each. No other gas cylinders will be accepted.

Sheffield residents can also dispose of oil-based paint and motor oil on Sat., July 23, 9 to 11am, at the Lenox Dept. of Public Works.

Latex paint is not accepted at any of these events; empty or dried-up paint cans can be disposed of with regular trash, as can empty cans of oil-based paint and solvents.

Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, visit [www.cetonline.org](http://www.cetonline.org), email [aviem@cetonline.org](mailto:aviem@cetonline.org) or call the Center for Ecological Technology at 888-577-8448 ext. 30.



## MINUTES, continued from page 15

memory of Edith French.

Administrator Kellogg said that the SBRSD School Committee voted on Thursday to certify the same FY12 budget as was previously presented, which requires the Town to hold a Special Town Meeting.

### May 23 working meeting

Members of the New Marlborough Board of Selectmen—Tara White, Lawrence Davis and Nathaniel Yohalem—came to discuss the school budget. Sheffield Finance Committee members David Steindler, John James, Judith Schnurr and David Macy as well as School Committee members Andy Fetterhoff, Charles Flynn, Dennis Sears, Vito Valentini, Stephen Willig and Business Administrator Bruce Turner were also present.

It was noted that the SBRSD School Committee has voted to recertify the same budget that was rejected by voters in Sheffield and New Marlborough. Discussion ensued as to what is needed to obtain an approved SBRSD budget for FY12.

The meeting also discussed the failed school bond, raising several questions: the need for more detail on how the funds will be expended; concern about lead paint abatement at the Egremont School; what constituted "soft goods" at the Consolati Performing Arts Center; the need for meetings with the Selectmen and Finance Committees of all five Towns; concern about borrowing funds to pay for computer and technology items; concern about the payment schedule possibly pushing towns into

the need for a Proposition 2½ override. It was agreed these questions would be submitted to the School Committee for their consideration.

Selectman Yohalem suggested that the School Committee be asked to reconsider their vote certifying the same budget in hopes of reaching a compromise on a reduced budget that would keep Sheffield and New Marlborough from exceeding their levy limit. It was agreed to bring these issues to the School Committee at its May 26 meeting.

Trudy Weaver Miller, Kathy Orlando, James Kelly, Bruce Howden and Dominic Palumbo were present to represent the Farmers Market and the Agricultural Commission. Chief of Police McGarry was also present and provided a brief summary of safety requirements should the Board decide to close all or part of the Village Green. After discussion, the Board approved closing off parking spaces in front of the Old Parish Church on Friday afternoons until June 24, with the following conditions: that the spaces be barricaded; flaggers present to direct motorists; no parking signs and cones on Route 7 and in the parallel parking spaces opposite the barricaded spaces; and signage to direct motorists around the barricaded area.

Administrator Kellogg advised that the Sheffield-Egremont Rd. repaving will not be able to be completed this year with the current available funds.

He also advised that the contract with JTC & Sons to haul recyclable materials

to the Springfield MRF is expiring on June 30. James Collingwood, president of JTC, has agreed to hold the existing price of \$230 per haul for one more year. Kellogg recommended that the Board approve a one-year extension since diesel prices have risen dramatically in the past year and the town would likely pay a higher price if it were to go out for new bids. The Board did so.

Administrator Kellogg said that only one application had been received in response to the Town's advertisement for a Recycling Educator to work at the Transfer Station this summer—a temporary, part-time position funded by a grant from the MRF Advisory Board. The Board voted to hire the one applicant, Lila Milukas, who has worked for the Town as a summer intern and did an excellent job, at the rate of \$12 an hour.

Kellogg provided an update on the Town's replacement of the American Legion's storage that was a condition of the Legion donating land for the Senior Center. George Oleen, Commander of the American Legion Post 340, was present and proposed that the Town pay for a freestanding pre-fabricated shed to be installed to the south of the Legion building. He will obtain a specification sheet on the shed and provide it to Administrator Kellogg, who will solicit three quotes.

The Board decided to put a committee together to plan a recognition luncheon for all those contributing to the creation, design, and construction of the new Senior Center.

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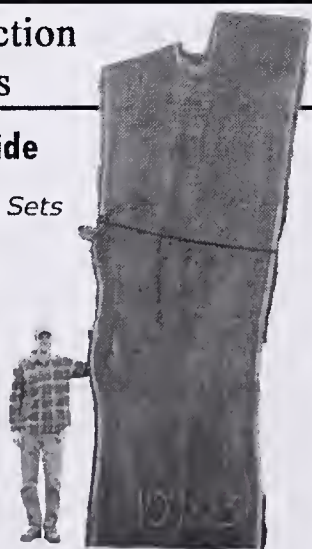
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### June 1 working meeting

Chairman Wood said that Administrator Kellogg has been appointed to serve as Interim Town Administrator until the new Administrator takes office. *[Kellogg has resigned as Town Administrator; see story on page 3.]*

Chairman Wood opened a public hearing regarding Architects Development Corp., dba Stagecoach Tavern and Race Brook Lodge, and its entertainment and alcohol licenses. David and Michael Rothstein from Architects Development were present, and their attorney C. Nicholas Arienti spoke on their behalf. The company is requesting an extension of its entertainment license to include the lawn area and the Events Barn, with any music restricted to inside the barn. Events held in the barn will be private parties and not open to the public. David Rothstein is the applicant for several one-day wine and malt licenses for the seven events to be held in the Events Barn and contiguous lawn area: June 10-12, July 21-23, August 19-21, September 30-October 2, October 14-16, October 28-30 and December 2-4. The applicant requested three days for each event to allow set up the day before and clean up the day after.

After reviewing emails in support of the licenses, two letters of concern about noise and parking and hearing two people in the audience speak in support, the Board granted the licenses.

Natalie Funk has submitted her resignation from the Council on Aging effective immediately. Fire Chief Rick Boardman notified the Board that Scott Rote has retired from the Fire Dept. The Board voted to send them a letter of thanks.

Wray Gunn has applied for an antique and second hand goods license to sell items from his garage at 143 Lime Kiln Rd. Building Inspector Thomas Carmody has issued a letter stating his decision that the property is located in the Commercial Zoning District, which allows this type of business by right. The Board voted to grant the license, pending the 30-day appeal period.

Administrator Kellogg updated the

Board on the Time Warner cable license renewal. An agreement has been reached for an extension, which would put Sheffield in line with the towns of Lee, Lenox, Stockbridge and Great Barrington, whose contract expires in 2014.

Grace Campbell, chairman of the Council on Aging, submitted a letter regarding furnishings, landscaping and a flag pole for the Senior Center. Administrator Kellogg will work with Chris Tomich on the landscaping design.

Administrator Kellogg updated the Board on the Clayton Rd. issue that has been ongoing. He, Chairman Wood and Highway Superintendent Edward Lord met with the property owner to work out the issue.

Administrator Kellogg said that Timothy Reynolds had identified properties that did not have an E911 sign as his Eagle Scout project. He has made and installed signs with materials donated by Sheffield Plastics, DeVries Building Supply and Joseph Wilkinson.

Kathy Orlando updated the Board on the status of the Open Space Master Plan. A public hearing will be held on June 20 for public input. The deadline for submitting the plan to the State is June 30. *[The deadline will be extended to allow more times for maps to be produced.]*

Pauline Schumann brought in a scrapbook that was created by Carl Schumann showing pictures of the Senior Center construction. The book will be donated to the Town after it's completed.

## DISABILITIES COMMISSION SPEAKER SERIES

The Commission on Disabilities continues its speaker series on the third Friday of each month.

On July 15, the topic will be "Reaching for New Horizons." Speakers will be from Community Access to the Arts, Blue Rider Stables and Special Olympics, each of which offers distinct and unique programs for people with disabilities.

On August 19, "Assistive Technology to Address Sensory Deficits" will showcase devices and strategies that enable people who have vision, hearing or speech impairments to be more independent.

The talks begin at 3:30pm in the downstairs meeting room of the Bushnell-Sage Library. For more information, contact Dave or Nan Wells at 229-8372 or nan1940@aol.com.

### June 1 regular meeting

Administrator Kellogg updated the Board on the status of the School District's FY2012 Budget. Selectman Wood suggested holding a public information session to explain the Board's position on the budget. *[This was held on June 20.]*

Administrator Kellogg said that he is willing to serve in an Interim capacity until a new Town Administrator takes office. Chairman Wood would like a list of all on-going projects to prioritize which would be the focus for the Interim Administrator. Discussion ensued regarding schedule, compensation, projects, Assistant Town Administrator LaBombard's increased responsibilities during the interim period and

*Continued on page 18*

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## **PLANNING BOARD NEWS: May-June meetings**

**New businesses:** Scott Collins had discussions with the Planning Board regarding establishing his business, Yankee Septic, on a property in Ashley Falls.

Wray Gunn notified the Planning Board that he will engage in a retail business selling costume jewelry and other items out of his garage on Lime Kiln Rd. This use is allowed by right without a special permit.

**Town business:** The Economic Development Commission submitted a draft of the "Doing Business in Sheffield" pamphlet to the Planning Board for review.

Chairman David Smith, Sr., has forms that may be filled out by anyone requesting information from the Board.

The lawsuit brought by Paul Greene against the Planning Board is being dismissed by the Trial Court of Massachusetts.

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission will hold meetings in North Adams, Great Barrington and Pittsfield about the expected state of the Berkshires in 2030. It will also

hold a meeting to train planning board members on July 28.

Members of the Board discussed the Cape Cod Light Compact. The towns band together and buy power collectively from electrical utilities to stabilize their electric rates. Senator Ben Downing was present at that meeting to discuss, but not necessarily recommend, whether Berkshires towns should explore such a compact.

**Board business:** On May 11, Chairman Smith read a letter of resignation from Board member Chris Tomich. Chris would like to serve as an alternate member of the Board.

The Planning Board decided to cut back on its meetings this summer to just the fourth Wednesday of each month unless there is something important to discuss. There will probably be two meetings in July due to new applications being filed. —*Nadia Milleron, Planning Board Secretary*

## **MINUTES, continued from page 17**

temporary clerical help. The Board appointed Kellogg to serve as Interim Town Administrator, with the compensation of \$50 per hour for a maximum of 16 hours per week. It also voted to increase LaBombard's compensation by \$300 per week beginning July 1 until a new Administrator takes office and authorized Kellogg to hire temporary part-time clerical help at the rate of \$15 per hour.

The Board discussed the advertisement for the Town Administrator position and decided to change the wording of the ad as follows: salary up to \$83,000 depending on qualifications; strong financial and personnel management; resumes received by July 1 will receive preference.

Administrator Kellogg distributed four options for the cost of the FY12 Transfer Station Stickers and recommended approval of Option #4, which keeps the price the same as FY11: \$185 per sticker, \$130 per sticker for residents 70 and older, including second homeowners, and \$10 per second sticker. The Board agreed.

The Board decided that Administrator Kellogg will conduct the annual department head evaluations.

Administrator Kellogg said that he and Highway Superintendent Lord met with Larry Salvator from Mass

Highway to look at land on the corner of Route 7 and Hewins St. currently owned by the Mass Highway, which they are willing to sell to the Town as a possible site for a new highway garage. The Board voted to authorize exploration of the offer.

The Board voted to accept a quote from White Engineering of \$1,000 to \$1,200 to design septic repairs for the Library.

Chairman Wood noted that the Board of Health has plans to set up a self-service space in the Selectmen's/Board of Health office and put forms on the Town website to allow people to obtain the forms when the office is not staffed. After discussion, the Board decided this would be a disruption to the Selectmen's office. Discussion ensued regarding space issues in Town Hall.

## **NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE**

**Voter registration.** Registration is available year round. Contact the Town Clerk's office, or visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sec.state.ma.us/ele](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele).

**Annual census.** Thanks to all who have submitted their Annual Street List (Census Form). If you haven't returned it yet, please do so as soon as possible. We need that form even if it's late.

**Hunting and fishing.** Licenses for 2010 have arrived. Please provide a previous year's license or copy of a hunter safety certificate to obtain a sporting/hunting license. The deadline for antlerless deer permits (doe tags) is July 16.

For more information, go to [www.sheffield.ma.gov](http://www.sheffield.ma.gov); click on "Town Departments," then "Town Clerk" and follow the link "Hunting information for Sheffield area" to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website ([www.mass.gov/masswildlife](http://www.mass.gov/masswildlife)).

**Dog licenses.** If you haven't licensed your dog this year, do so immediately! If you have a dog six months of age or older and you live in Sheffield at least 30 days of the year, you are required to license your dog. The fee is \$10 for intact dogs, \$5 for spayed/neutered dogs. Licensing takes place annually March 1 to May. After that, a fine of \$25 per dog will be imposed. Recently acquired dogs can be licensed at any time during the year. If you have questions, please call.

**Attention business owners.** If you hold a trade name certificate ("d.b.a."), please be sure that it is still current. Certificates are good for four years from the application date. If you hold one, take a look and see if you are due for renewal. If you are uncertain or have a question, call the office for assistance.



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION: April 11, May 9 & 23 meetings

At the April 11 meeting, The Commission requested a Certificate of Compliance for Bayer Materials Science LLT for property on 119 Salisbury Rd. because all requirements of the Order of Conditions had been complied with.

Rick and Donna Parsons were present at the May 9 meeting to discuss the proposed single-family house and related site work on property on Berkshire School Rd. They stated that Mike Parsons was in the process of mapping out the property's deed restriction as required for approval by the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.

As the Parsons had been waiting several months and had complied with all requirements thus far, the Commission approved the application with the following conditions: The Parsons will submit a plan to Natural Heritage showing the limit of work and deed restriction lines. The Commission must receive approval in writing from Natural Heritage. The Parsons will record the plan and deed restriction with the Registry of Deeds and the determination letter from Natural

Heritage dated March 24, 2011. Should the project deviate from the approved plan, they may be required to obtain a Massachusetts Endangered Species Act permit.

Neal Chamberlain informed the Commission that a second canoe launch along the Housatonic River in the area of the Town Bridge was being considered.

At the May 23 meeting, the Commission held a hearing on a notice of intent to undertake work that will impact protected wetlands (an intermittent stream) from Deborah Reich for property on 1666 Boardman St. Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering, and Joseph Smith, property manager for the applicant, were present. Reich wishes to relocate the existing house onto the hill on the property. A house mover will transport the house via an access road. The house will remain the same other than the additions of a new bay window and porches. There will be a new well and a new septic system.

Very little work will occur within the buffer zone with the exception of the driveway, which will be gravel. Plantings with erosion control matting underneath

are proposed to buffer the new drive, with swales on either side. There will be no tree removal. Drainage will be directed with a curtain drain behind the house.

The area of disturbance that lies closest to the intermittent stream will be revegetated. The current location of the house will become a garden. The existing garage will be used for storage.

The Commission scheduled a site visit of the property.

The Commission discussed the asphalt plant that is being proposed along the Konkapot River near Century Acquisitions. This new plant would require permitting from the state Dept. of Environmental Protection. The existing concrete plant seemed to be operating without a permit, although it is possible that these activities may have been grandfathered in. There have been pollution issues. Residents downstream of the area reported seeing a white runoff. The existing holding ponds might be ineffective. The Commission agreed that the white sediment should be tested to see what it actually is and to contact the DEP.

### *The Sheffield Historical Society*



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The 1774 **Dan Raymond House Museum** offers tours May through September. Come explore the daily lives of common people from the Revolutionary generation onward, including the intriguing history of the Sheffield Tory for whom the house is named.

The **Mark Dewey Research Center** houses the town's early archives, including tax and real estate records, historic photographs, and genealogical research. Open most Mondays and Fridays, from 1:30 to 4pm, year round.

The 1834 **Old Stone Store** located on the Town Green functions as the Society's gift shop and exhibition space. Open weekends April to December.

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## A SAMPLING OF THE SHEFFIELD FARMERS' MARKET

The Sheffield Farmers' Market opened May 27 and is off to an enthusiastic start. Open Fridays from 3 to 7pm, it is now located on the sidewalk in front of Old Parish Church on Route 7 as well as in the church parking lot to its side. It will be there every Friday until Labor Day Weekend.

**Parking.** In past years, the merchants along the Town Green have noticed a decline in business during Market hours, a drop attributed to Market customers taking the parking spaces in front of their stores.

Since the Farmers Market aims to enhance business for all, it and the Town ask Market customers to park in the Town Hall Parking Lot, a mere 75 steps away. Please do not take the spaces in front of the other stores. The Market will have *Good Parker Coupons* at the Town Hall parking lot as a reward to customers parking there, good for \$1 off any purchase in the Market or with the village green merchants.

Here's a sampling of what's available at this year's Farmers' Market. As summer rolls along, of course, more and more produce will be available.

**Hawk Dance Farm**—Diane Creed and Damon Clift, Hillsdale, New York

Vegan organic, certified naturally grown vegetables, culinary and medicinal herbs, plants, flowers and handcrafted non-food items. Currently selling Pirate Butterhead lettuce, garlic scapes, herbs and potted plants. Coming soon: turnips, Swiss chard.

**Michele's Goodies**—Michele and daughter Margaret, North Egremont

Fancy cookies, including Star Sweethearts, Linzer (with raspberry & hazelnut), ginger spice, coconut macaroons dipped in chocolate, and brownies.

**Community Cooperative Farms & CSA**—Justin Torrico, founder; multiple farm sites in Sheffield and Mount Washington

This 10-owner/worker farm cooperative (average age 24) has a mission in social justice, intercultural understanding, self-reliance and environmental sustainability. Most met while students at Pitzer College near Los Angeles, CA. They farm without machines that use fossil fuels, using their hands and wheel barrows instead. Owner/

worker Tashiana Colston, a "black wombyn farming," says they currently are selling collards, broccoli, sugar snap peas, Amish peas, greens, eggs from five different breeds of heritage chickens and Guinea hen eggs. Coming soon: cabbages, cauliflower, turnips.

**Berkshire Mountain Bakery**—Richard Bourdon, Houghton

In a 7,000-square-foot factory that was once a paper mill, Berkshire Mountain Bakery produces thousands of loaves of artisanal bread each week. Jessica, market worker, says Richard stone grinds most of his own flour and uses no preservatives. All are French sourdough. Popular items are the sunny flax, bread-and-chocolate, and San Francisco loaves, but there are many other choices, including jalapeno mini ciabatti and to-die-for croissants.

**Bill's Busy Bees**—Bill and Helen Seymour, Hillsdale, NY

Bill started raising bees in 1950. He has 10 hives from which he extracts the honey, bottles it and sells it. Pure honey, nothing added.

**Basically Baked**—Julie Kelley, Sheffield

Julie, a graduate of the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, makes her wares from scratch using basic ingredients "you have heard of"—Molasses Chewies, cupcakes, cookies of all stripes, pumpkin bread, Bear Bites (pretzels, chex mix, peanut butter, chocolate, powdered sugar), brown sugar pound cake and made-to-order cakes.

**Moon in the Pond Farm**—Dominic Palumbo, Sheffield

One of the founders of the Sheffield Farmers Market, Dominic sells a wide selection of organically raised heritage-breed meats, including pork, chicken, veal, turkey, goose, lamb, capretto (goat) and Scottish Highland beef. Beef and



*At the Sheffield Farmers Market, alongside Old Parish Church.*

lamb are exclusively grass fed. Specialty products include sausages, hotdogs, liverwurst, pork liver paté and artisanal slab bacon. He raises heirloom vegetables and naturally lacto-ferments pickles and sauerkraut.

**Brooks & Magill Nursery**—Joshua Brooks & BJ Magill, Ashley Falls

This small nursery was started by Joshua Brooks when he was 18. BJ Magill took over when Joshua went off to college, and they became partners after that. In business for 12 years, the nursery grows trees, bushes and ground covers.

**Chubby Bunny Farm & CSA**—Dan and Tracy Hayhurst, Falls Village, CT

Farmhand Tanya sells vegetables of all kinds, including greens, garlic scapes, sugar snap peas, strawberries. Coming soon: turnips, beets.

**Snow Farm Nursery & Greenhouse**—Susan & Emily Tarasuk, Sandisfield

In addition to selling perennials, annuals, herbs and shrubs, Snow Farm offers horticultural services: design, consulting and installation. It also sells sheep's wool.

**Howden Farm**—Bruce Howden & David Prouty, Sheffield

The farm where the famous Howden Pumpkin varieties were developed. Also known for its excellent sweet corn, available in July. Blueberries and raspberries as a U-pick crop. —Trudy Weaver Miller



## SHEFFIELD LAND TRUST

**Annual meeting.** More than 100 people attended the Land Trust's annual meeting on June 25. Held in a tent on the soon-to-be-protected Curtiss APR field on Route 41, the event celebrated the current phase of the Sheffield-Egremont Corridor Project, which is protecting several hundred acres of fields, forest, wetlands, and streams in northwest Sheffield and southeast Egremont.

The event also celebrated the Sheffield and Egremont Land Trusts' meeting a \$400,000 fundraising challenge from the Pew Charitable Trust's Northeast Land Trust Consortium, triggering an additional \$80,000 grant from Pew. For the current phase of the Corridor Project, the land trusts have raised more than \$1.8 million of the \$2 million needed. This "local contribution" will bring an additional \$2 million from State and Federal sources to protect these lands. Contact either of the land trusts if you can help them reach the final goal.

**2nd grade field trip.** On June 9, second graders from Undermountain Elementary School took their annual field trip to Moon in the Pond Farm and the Land Trust office to learn about farms and mapping. The Land Trust has spon-

sored the outing for nearly 10 years now.

**Agricultural Fair and Career Day.** The Land Trust helped organize this school district event on June 16 in conjunction with the Mt. Everett Regional High School FFA (Future Farmers of America) chapter. The event featured animals, produce and information from local farmers and 4-H groups, and tables and exhibits from the FFA and

local organizations such as Blue Rider Stables, Project Native, the Co-op and the Land Trust. The FFA recently revived the Fair and Career Day which the Land Trust helped start a number of years ago.



*Tent with a view. The Land Trust's annual meeting was held in the Curtiss APR field off Route 41, soon-to-be protected land that is part of the Sheffield-Egremont Corridor Project.*

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## Organizations & Businesses

### SCOUT WORK DAY AT THE COBBLE

What started out as a cloudy Saturday morning turned out to be perfect conditions for an Eagle Scout work day at Bartholomew's Cobble on May 28. Fourteen friends and family members came to help out with Demitri Casivant's Scout project. Three miles of barbed wire fencing was removed from a mile of roadside at the Cobble.

"We had a great team of people that helped us out," said Demitri. "I couldn't have done any of it without them."

Demitri also wants to thank Chance Rueger, who helped with the food set up and took pictures."



*Fence removers at Bartholomew's Cobble. The work crew: Owen Wright (Scout Master, Troop 28 Sheffield), Demitri Casivant, Adam Derwitsch, Colby Rueger, Patrick Hogelin, Rene Wendell (ranger at the Cobble), Marvin Casivant (Assistant Scout Master), Kosta Casivant, Max Maryshchuk, Kyle LeGeyt-McLoughlin, Nikos Casivant (holding the sign), Hunter Lucy, Liz Hobby (Assistant Scout Master), Bill Hogelin, and Olympia Casivant (Demitri's mom).*

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

**Book talk.** In conjunction with the Bushnell-Sage Library, the Sheffield Historical Society presents David Levinson and Emilie Piper. See page 12 for details.

**Old Stone Store exhibit: Sheffield During the Civil War.** Out of the 2,621 residents of Sheffield, 269 men went to fight between 1861 and 1865. Learn what happens to a town when 10 percent of its population—the 18-to-45-year-old farmers and merchants and workmen—are away. The exhibit is free and open to the public. Through July 24.

### BARB'S BAKED GOODS

Barb Davidson will not be selling at the Sheffield Farmers Market this year. But she's still open for business at her store at 46 Main St., 8am to 7pm every Friday. "I will pretty much have what I had last year," she says. "Plus, there will be new items like my crunchy parmesan cheese sticks and granola."

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## KIWANIS NEWS AND EVENTS

**New raffle.** On Wednesday night, Aug. 10, at The Bridge Restaurant Lounge, the lucky winning tickets will be drawn for the newest Kiwanis Club Raffle. The grand prize is a seven-day Caribbean cruise on the Norwegian Pearl for two. Included are round-trip airfare and \$500 spending money. Second prize is \$1,000.

The ship leaves from Miami and stops in the Bahamas, Jamaica, Grand Cayman Island and Cozumel, Mexico. The cruise can be taken in October 2011 or January or March 2012 (some restrictions apply). Travel is arranged by Paul Mulholland at Troy Travel Agency, 528-2174.

Tickets sell for \$20 each and are available from any Kiwanis member and at the following Sheffield businesses: Silk's, PJ's, Shear Image, Berkshire Styles Salon, Collingwood Transport, Gulotta's Mobil station and The Bridge Lounge. In Great Barrington, tickets are being sold at Sears, Sole Hair, Goodworks Insurance and Graham & Norton. Proceeds will fund Kiwanis community service projects.

**Speaking of service projects.** The Sheffield club recently sent a \$600 check to the Kiwanis Club of West Springfield Agawam to help care for the tornado victims being sheltered at the Big E Fairgrounds. We especially earmarked the money to go to the many new mothers and small babies who lost their homes.

**Café travels.** Our Kiwanis Café, the refreshment trailer, was on hand at all the Little League contests waged at Sheffield's Town Park. The Café also appeared at horse shows in French Park, the Berkshire School Alumni Athletics day, the Covered Bridge Park dedication and the Kiwanis Family Safety Day & Bike Rodeo. Debbie Wright and Dave Smith, Sr., now chair the Kiwanis Café schedule.

**Regular activities.** Our Litter Patrols, with Steve and JoAnn Shmulsky in charge, and the Breaking Bread soup kitchen, with Dave Smith, Sr., and Marge Kirchner heading the Kiwanis staff, continue their regular schedules.

**June activities.** Activities during the month of June included the annual

scholarship picnic at the Town Park Pavilion, where our new award winners and their parents were treated to an informal celebration. Eighteen high school graduates from Mt. Everett and Monument Mountain High School and Berkshire School were honored, along with eight area college students. The scholarship payments will total \$28,400 this year.

Our annual Golf Tournament took place June 17 at the Egremont Country Club. Dave Smith, Jr., and Cathy and Fred Finkle headed that event.

**Coming this summer.** Our major energies in July will be directed toward the Berkshire Choral Festival, where we host a daily cocktail bar for the singers. Dick Goodwin, Nat Padin, Dave Tully and Paul Mulholland supervise these libation periods. At the four Saturday night concerts, Patty Hardisty, Theresa Collingwood and Dick Goodwin run the

## AMERICAN LEGION

The Sheffield American Legion Post 340 will be holding its annual chicken barbeque on Sun., Aug. 22, from noon to 3pm. Tickets may be purchased (\$10 adults, \$5 children 5-12) at the door, from most Legion Post members or at Gulotta's Service Station, Silk's Variety and Shear Image in Sheffield and TNL Auto Parts in Great Barrington. Proceeds from this event are used for the Post 340 scholarships, Boys State, and Student Trooper programs. Take-out orders are welcome.

The Post members wish to thank all the participants in the Sheffield Memorial Day parade. Without your support, that ceremony just wouldn't have happened!

—George Oleen and Dale Alden

concession stand for the audiences. Jim Collingwood, Dave Smith, Jr., and Nat Padin co-chair the weekly parking crews.

Be sure to get your cruise raffle tickets before the Aug. 10 drawing, and watch for the Kiwanis Steak Roast as part of Sheffield in Celebration on Sept. 10.

—Dick Goodwin

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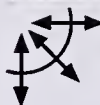


Photo: Sarah Edwards

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## COBBLE NEWS: FOCUS ON FLOODPLAIN FORESTS

Most of the time when you're driving alongside the Housatonic River in Sheffield, you're passing through a floodplain forest or land that was once a floodplain forest. Where the land around a river is level, water easily overflows riverbanks, depositing fertile soils that provide the start-up capital necessary for a rich and varied plant community that will become such a forest.

In turn, the forest forms a habitat for various wildlife species. Wood ducks nest in tree cavities, beaver use its wood, white-tailed deer look for food, and kingfisher, herons, and bald eagles seek shelter while hunting along the river.

Since seasonal flooding is one of the defining features of a floodplain forest ecosystem, plants growing there need to be tolerant of moisture. At the same time, the plants supply a thick network of roots that prevents erosion along the riverbank and keeps the rich



fluvial deposits in place.

Bartholomew's Cobble encompasses 10 acres of floodplain forest. A day spent paddling or walking through such land will take you under a canopy of

Above, silver maples arch over the Housatonic. Right top: ostrich fern. Right below: assistant ranger Kari Amick on the Cobble's Bailey Trail, which leads into the heart of the floodplain forest.

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cottonwood, silver maple, hackberry, ash, and sycamore trees. Did you know that the Bailey Trail at the Cobble has one of the two largest cottonwood trees in Massachusetts? (The other is in Pittsfield.) The Cobble tree has a hollow big enough to climb into. The current record for people inside is 12 students and one ranger.

The fertile soil held in place by floodplain forests has created one of Sheffield's key assets—the valuable agricultural land all along the Housatonic that gives Sheffield so much of its rural character.

That same rich soil, alas, is highly susceptible to colonization by invasive species like oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed and black swallowwort. That means a lot of work is required at the

Cobble to keep invasives under control and restore native species such as ostrich ferns and rare plants like Gray's sedge and clustered sanicle.

The Trustees of Reservations invite you to join in exploring and restoring the floodplain forests at the Cobble this summer. There will be a special workday focusing on floodplain forests on July 21 in addition to the regular workdays on Thursdays throughout the summer and fall. Canoe trips focusing on the unique aspects of floodplain forests will take place on July 2 and 24 and on other Sundays throughout the season.

—Kari Amick

*Amick is the 2011 Seasonal Ranger at the Cobble. She is a resident of Lanesborough and a recent graduate of Wheaton College in Illinois.*

## EVENTS AT BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE AND ASHLEY HOUSE

### Elizabeth Freeman's World

Wed., July 8 & Aug. 6, 11am, 1pm.

Step into one of the Berkshires' greatest stories at the Ashley House. Guided and self-guided activities inside and out on the trails. Bring a picnic lunch. Ages 6 and up. Members: free. Nonmembers: adult/child \$5; family \$10.

### Up Close: Snakes and Turtles

Sat., July 16, 10am-12 noon.

Learn to find and safely handle these critters; discover their habits and homes. Ages 6 and up. Please pre-register. adult/child \$6; family \$15. Members: adult/child \$4; family \$12.

### Floodplain Forest Restoration Day

Thurs., July 21, 9am-12 noon

Get a hands-on view of the unique geology, rare species and efforts to restore native species and floodplain forests. Free, but call for details.

### Paddle the Floodplain Forest

Sun., July 24, 8:30-11:30am.

A leisurely exploration of the rich plant and animal life by canoe. Boats, paddles and life jackets provided. Please pre-register. Adult \$30; child (age 10-16) \$15. Members: adult \$24; child (age 10-16) \$10.

### Live Birds of Prey with Tom Ricardi

Sat., July 30, 10am-12 noon.

With a wildlife rehabilitator meet the hawks, owls and a bald eagle and hear their stories. Please pre-register. Adult \$10; child (age 6-12) \$5. Members: adult \$8; child (6-12) \$4.

### Elizabeth Freeman Day Celebration

Sun., Aug. 21, 12 noon-4pm.

Come to Ashley House to commemorate a courageous woman who won her freedom on this day in 1781, helping end slavery in Massachusetts. Open house at 12, interpretive center dedication at 1, ceremony with music at 2. Free.

### Ongoing

#### Guided Tours of Ashley House

Weekends in July & August, 1-3pm

At the oldest house in Berkshire County, hear the stories of two individuals who took different stands for freedom, and changed history. Adult \$5; child free. Members free.

### Housatonic Canoe Trips

Sat., July 2, and most Sundays in July and August (except Aug. 21), 8:30-11:30am.

Paddle the meandering river, watch for bald eagles and learn the river's story. Paddles, life preservers, and boats provided. Please pre-register. Adult \$30; child (age 10-16) \$15. Members: adult \$24; child (age 10-16) \$10.

### Eco-Volunteers

Thursdays through fall, 9am-12 noon.

Help monitor and care for Cobble trails and plant communities. Contact Rene Wendell at 229-8600 or [bcobble@ttor.org](mailto:bcobble@ttor.org) for more information. Free.

*Since 1946, The Trustees of Reservations have managed Bartholomew's Cobble, a National Natural Landmark. The Cobble is located on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. It's open year-round, daily, sunrise to sunset. The Visitor's Center is open from 9am-4pm Tuesday-Saturday during winter months. Learn what's in bloom each week with the "What's in Bloom Board" on our Visitor Center porch. Regular admission is free for members of The Trustees of Reservations and Sheffield residents. Non-members: \$5 adult, \$1 child. To register for events, call 229-8600 or email [bcobble@ttor.org](mailto:bcobble@ttor.org). Check the website for the latest: [www.thetrustees.org](http://www.thetrustees.org). Sign up to receive our monthly e-news at [bcobble@ttor.org](mailto:bcobble@ttor.org).*





*Ashley Falls Village Improvement Association. Volunteers set up for the "On and Off the Green" tag sale on May 21. The sale was well attended, and fortunately the weather held until 2:20, when there was a deluge of heavy rain.*

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

### May

- 17 Gloria Lutinski to Adrian Cushwa, property at Tulip Lane, \$10,000.
- 20 Sherwin & Joanne Gorenstein to Dale A. & Phyllis A. Webb, property at 205 Root Lane, \$374,000.
- 20 Rose M. Cosgiff (estate of) to Dale A. & Phyllis A. Webb, property at Salisbury Rd., \$160,000.
- 20 Randy F. Weinstein to Lawrence F. Reilly, property at 616 Sheffield Plain Rd., \$240,000.
- 23 Hilary A. Sutcliffe to David E. & Rachel Barwick Eidex, property at 445 Alum Hill Rd., \$180,000.
- 27 Conrad C. & Madalene C. Ohman to Jason L. Casey, property at 753 Clayton Rd., \$150,000.
- 27 Vincent R. Morgan to Lawrence S. & Cynthia Matte, property at 377 South Undermountain Rd., \$475,000.

## FIRE LOG

—Rick Boardman, Chief

### May

- 10 Mutual aid to Lakeville, CT, Fire Dept for brush fire. Time out: 8:29am. Time in: 4:05pm.
- 13 Accident on Rt.7 and Lime Kiln Rd. Time out: 4:08pm. Time in: 4:45pm.
- 14 Kitchen vent on Main St. Time out: 11:45am. Time in: 12:20pm.
- 18 False alarm at Mt. Everett Regional School. Time out: 6:00pm. Time in: 6:10pm.
- 21 Car accident on Home Rd. Time out: 8:02pm. Time in: 10:45pm.
- 24 Smoke investigation. Time out: 9:04pm. Time in: 9:13pm.
- 24 Car accident on County Rd. Time out: 9:11pm. Time in: 10:46pm.

### June

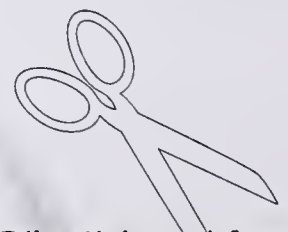
- 1 Standby in station for tornado in Springfield all night; Chief Boardman goes to Springfield Station.
- 7 Lost child on Home Rd. Time out: 4:37pm. Time in: 4:41pm.
- 8 Standby in Station for structure fire in Great Barrington. Time out: 12:35am. Time in: 1:24am.
- 9 Trees and wires down all over town from major storm. Time out: 4:21pm. Time in: 9:07pm.
- 10 Wires down on Main St. Time out: 3:10am. Time in: 3:45am.
- 12 Tree down on East Stahl Rd. Time out: 10:54pm. Time in: 11:15pm.
- 14 Barn fire on Polikoff Rd. Time out: 4:48am. Time in: 6:46am.
- 15 Mutual aid to Canaan, CT, Fire Dept. Time out: 4:00am. Time in: 10:06am.

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# Calendar Page

## July

- 1 Housatonic Valley Art League show reception (p. 4)
- 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
- 9 Hazardous waste disposal day (p. 15)
- 7 Asphalt plant community meeting (p. 9)
- 11 Library reading camp begins (p. 12)
- 15 Disabilities Commission speaker (p.17)
- 16 Doe tag deadline (p. 18)
- 18 Book talk (p. 12)
- 22 Meeting House Gallery show opening (p. 4)
- 23 Oil & paint disposal (p. 15)
- 30 Poetry at Library (p. 12)

## August

- 5 Housatonic Valley Art League show reception (p. 4)
- 7 Free day at Berkshire South (p. 9)
- 11 Congregational brunch (p. 11)
- 13 Christ Church country fair (p. 11)
- 15 **Deadline for the SEPT./OCT. Sheffield Times**
- 19 Disabilities Commission speaker (p.17)
- 22 Chicken BBQ (p. 23)

## Coming

Sept. 10—Sheffield in Celebration and the Sheffield Fair

See also the listings for Choral Festival concerts (p. 7),  
Kiwanis (p. 23) and Bartholomew's Cobble (p. 25)

Buy local, read local!  
Please contribute!

## ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

Meetings or events that occur less than weekly are noted with a week number – i.e. "1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>" indicates meetings are on the first and third times that day occurs in the month. \* indicates appointment needed.

*Building Inspector, NEW, Mon-Fri, 7 hours/day but call for actual hours (as which 7 hour period will vary) and to be sure Inspector is not out on an inspection*

*Meals on Wheels, Mon-Fri, except holidays*

### Mondays:

*Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> only for winter)*  
*Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am*  
*Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1<sup>st</sup>*

### Tuesdays:

*Council on Aging, 5pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last*  
*Senior Center physical fitness, 9am*  
*Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am*  
*Senior Center "Lawn Chair Movie," 11:30am*  
*Kiwanis Club, The Bridge Restaurant, 6:30pm*

### Wednesdays:

*Senior Center Knitting Group, 3pm, 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> only for summer)*

### Thursdays:

*Senior Center physical fitness, 9am*  
*\* Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2<sup>nd</sup>*  
*\* Hearing Testing available, Senior Center, 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Breaking Bread Kitchen, American Legion Hall, 5pm*

### Fridays

*Commission on Disabilities, Library, 3:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup>*  
*Farmers Market, Village Green, 3-7pm*

### Saturdays:

*Dewey Hall Folk Music Series, 8pm, 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Senior Center Knitting Group, 11am, 3<sup>rd</sup>*

### Sundays:

*Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2<sup>nd</sup>*

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# Sheffield TIMES

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**September 10**

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★ **APPLE PIE CONTEST** ★ **ANIMALS** ★  
★ **STEAK ROAST** ★

**Questions...** about **vendors & volunteering**, contact Dave Smith, 229-9956 or westhill483@hotmail.com... about **animal showman-ship**, contact Kathy Orlando, 229-8789 or wildkato@aol.com... about the **apple pie contest**, contact Barbara Delmolino, 229-8696 or sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com... about the **food court**, contact Barb Davidson, 229-8091

**SEE PAGE 10** for vendor and pie contest entry forms.